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ABRIDGED ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1940

Gentlemen,

We have the honour to present an abridged report for the year 1940 as requested by the Ministry of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	4,771 acres
Population (1939)...	9,417
Number of inhabited houses	2,949
Rateable Value	£ 64,137
Sum represented by penny rate	£249

The chief industries in the District remained materially the same as in peace-time.

As a reception area for evacuation the population of the District has increased very considerably, and, as large numbers of persons keep coming and going, no stable figure for population is possible. During 1940 the increase varied, roughly, from 1/10th to 1/3rd or more of the normal population. This put an increased strain upon the Sewage Disposal Works but the plant has stood up to the strain successfully.

Hostels and requisitioned houses for evacuated persons numbered 23 in the year 1940.

VITAL STATISTICS: It is impossible to produce any reliable figure for birth and death rates owing to the continually changing population, and the difficulty in deciding who belong to the district and to the absence of many on Active Service.

The total number of births in the District was 152, which is appreciably higher than the average; the majority of confinements occurring amongst evacuated women took place outside the area - in a maternity hospital - and are not included in this figure.

The deaths numbered 179, which is considerably above the normal number. No deaths due directly to enemy action occurred in the District.

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	140	69	71
	Illegitimate	8	6	2
Still Births		4	2	2
		152	77	75
Deaths		179	96	83
Deaths from Puerperal Causes			Nil	
Deaths of Infants under one year of age			6	

Other figures for Vital Statistics must await the reception of the Registrar General's figures.

HEALTH SERVICES.

Hospital and ambulance facilities remain unchanged. In addition to the existing staff, a nurse is employed for a clinic for evacuated school-children and a Health Visitor for evacuated babies.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

In addition to the clinic for resident mothers and children, a second clinic has been instituted for evacuated mothers and children which has one session every week and is conducted by a doctor and the evacuee health visitor, and voluntary lay helpers.

A day nursery has been started for infants of mothers who go to work and there is also a day-day for children with scabies or impetigo.

WATER. Three samples from the supply main and four from individual wells were analysed during the year. These were all satisfactory save one from No.7 Well, an auxiliary supply which had been standing dormant for some time. After being pumped out for a week, subsequent analysis produced a good report.

There was a considerable increase in the consumption through the year, the addition of three or four thousand in population accounting for this. At certain times it was not possible to keep the service reservoirs full, as the demand exceeded the capacity of the trunk main to deliver. The wells kept at their average level and shortage was occasioned only by reason of a restricted main capacity. Surveys were made with a view to the provision of an additional trunk main, and this and possibly a booster pump scheme are now under consideration.

There have been no additions or extensions of supplies or mains during the year.

The necessary mains and connections have been made and pumps obtained to use River Tolland water, filtered and chlorinated through the Public Baths Plant, in case of serious emergency. A list of all existing wells has also been recorded.

A copy of the result of the Analysis and Report of the Leicestershire County Council, dated 21st August, 1940, regarding the last sample from the town main, is appended :-

Appearance in 2ft. tube Clear.
Odour Nil.
Reaction pH 7.1 (Slightly Alkaline).
Hardness -

	<u>Parts per</u> <u>100,000</u>	<u>Grains per</u> <u>Gallon</u>
Free and Saline Ammonia	0.003	0.0021
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.009	0.0063
Chlorine in Chlorides	2.0	1.4
(Equal to Chloride of Sodium)	3.3	2.31
Nitrogen in Nitrates	0.5	0.35
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	-	-

Remarks: Coliform organisms absent from 10 c c's.

Opinion: The analysis shows this to be a fair sample of water suitable for drinking.

Fifty-eight houses are supplied with water from 25 private wells, and the remainder are connected to the public piped supply. All private wells were sampled for the detection of pollution, and proved satisfactory with one exception. In the latter instance, appropriate measures were taken to remove the source of pollution.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No alteration or extension of the system was carried out. Plans are being prepared, however, for a relief outfall sewer between the lower part of the town and the disposal works, together with some proposals for enlarging the capacity of the latter to meet the large increase in flow brought about by the considerable rise in population.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Thirty-one new water closets were connected to the sewerage system. The total number in the district was thereby increased to approximately 3,960.

PUBLIC CLEANING.

Conditions in this service continued on similar lines to the previous year. 2,647 tons of refuse were delivered to the Destructor, and good progress was made in the salvaging of various materials.

Complaints received and investigated	....	....	....	....	77
Defects and nuisances dealt with	....	....	....	....	299
Informal notices served	....	....	....	....	136
Statutory " "	....	....	....	....	1

Inspections:-

1st Visits. Revisits.

Dwelling-houses (all purposes)	....	....	....	410	357
Tents, vans etc. (human habitations)	....	....	....	1	-
Regional Slaughter-house	....	....	....	1	448
Food premises	....	....	....	16	2
Dairies and Cowsheds	....	....	....	16	33
Offensive Trades	....	....	....	5	-
Animal Keeping	....	....	....	13	1
Factories etc.	....	....	....	43	7
Other premises	....	....	....	108	49
				613	897

Dwelling-houses:-

Repairs etc effected	....	....	....	43
Dustbins provided	....	....	....	124
Unit house closed	....	....	....	1

Factories etc:-

Defects remedied	....	....	....	2
Means of escape in case of fire:				
Provided or improved	....	....	....	2
Certificate issued	....	....	....	1

Miscellaneous Nuisances etc:-

Drain defects attended to	....	....	....	13
Offensive accumulations removed	....	....	....	9
Infestations of rats and mice dealt with	....	....	....	27
Other defects remedied	....	....	....	26

Disinfection and Disinfestation:-

Infected rooms fumigated	....	....	....	131
Vermineous rooms treated	....	....	....	32
Articles of bedding, clothing etc:				
Steam disinfected	....	....	....	1,526
Destroyed	....	....	....	85
Other articles disinfected	....	....	....	617

(Note: the increased number of articles was largely due to work in connection with Evacuation and A.R.P. Services).

Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to Control :-

Fish Frier. Rat & Bone Dealer.

Written Consent to establishment renewed	4	1
Contravention of Bye-laws dealt with	-	1
Number in District at end of year:		
Subject to written Consent	-	1
Not subject to written Consent	5	2

The trade of Fish Frier ceased to be subject to written Consent on 30th September, 1940, in accordance with Section 107 of the Public Health Act 1936. Application was made to the Ministry of Health for an Order authorising the continuation of control, but this was not granted.

Petrol and Carbine Stores :-

Petrol Lorry Spirit. Carbide of Calcium.

Number of licences issued	1	-
Number of licences renewed	34	2
Number of licences transferred	1	-

The only one in the District is a covered Swimming Bath owned by the Council. The water purification plant continued to function efficiently and daily tests were made by the Manager. One sample of the water was bacteriologically examined and the result was satisfactory.

HOUSING.

Twenty houses have been erected by private enterprise during the year. The total number constructed since 1919, when building operations were resumed after the Great War, is now 1,047, representing more than one-third of the housing accommodation of the area.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ....	....	126
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose . ....	....	182
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932....	....	-
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose . ....	....	-
(3)		Number of dwelling-houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation....	....	1
(4)		Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ....	....	29

2. Remedial Work done during the year without Service of Formal Notices :-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers...	29
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year ..

Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

Owing to the difficulties of the present situation, it has not been possible to avoid overcrowding in certain instances, but every effort has been made to provide for the health and welfare of the increased population, and special attention has been given to individual cases.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply:-

<u>Trade.</u>	<u>No. on Register.</u>
Cowkeepers only	3
Retailers only	5
Retailers and cowkeepers ..	7
Farms and other Premises ..	22

The following Licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 & 1938:

"Pasteurised" Milk	1
"Tuberculin Tested" Milk (Dealers)	3
"Tuberculin Tested" Milk (Supplementary) ..	1

Milk Sampling:-

<u>Class.</u>	<u>Number of samples taken for bacteriological examinations.</u>	<u>Number Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Number Unsatisfactory.</u>
Designated	8	7	1
Ordinary	6	6	-

The unsatisfactory sample was of milk from another area, and the Licensing Authority concerned was notified of the result.

Defects remedied at dairies and cowsheds	4
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Meat and Other Foods:-

5.

Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

Defects remedied at Food Premises	17
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Slaughter of Animals Act 1933 :

Licences issued	••••	••••	••••	••••	2
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Licenses renewed	4444	4444	4444	4444	16
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OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Chief Billeting Officer for the reception of evacuees, continued from the previous year until April 1940.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES:-

Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	....	57
Diphtheria	....	....	....	....	2
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	15
Cerebrospinal Fever	....	....	....	....	2
Erysipelas	....	....	....	....	2

Yours faithfully,

F. RILEY T. SUGAN,

Medical Officer of Health.

BERNARD G. ELLIOTT,

Sanitary Inspector.

